

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Their claim that the content is "newsworthy" is spurious. This is a blatant example of unregulated corporate interference in the democratic process. What's most infuriating is that they are utilizing the public airwaves which are owned by the American people.

Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair's actions in this situation result in a blatant public disservice. I appreciate recent FCC moves to hold these conglomerates accountable for their content, as in the case with last year's SuperBowl. Hopefully similarly harsh fines will be imposed upon Sinclair should they choose to move forward with their planned corporate interference with our democratic process.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.